

in relation to this subject, copies of which memorials are again before you. These memorials were extensively circulated at the West, and were signed by many of the most influential bodies for the promotion and protection of agriculture in that region. During the winter these memorials were sent to Congress, in the expectation that some proper legislation would follow. One of the Senators, in fact, introduced a bill which seems to have been very carefully considered, and indeed bears upon its face some evidence of scientific guidance. This bill provided for the appointment of three Commissioners for five years, the Commissioners to be nominated by the Council of the National Academy of Science to the Secretary of Interior. This bill, having been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, was returned, completely orchidized, in such form as to provide for one Commissioner, to be appointed by the Department of Agriculture, the very enemy and incubus from which the western agriculturist specially desired to be relieved.

The bill in this form passed the Senate, several of the members taking occasion in the discussion which preceded the passage to talk to the demonstration of their own ignorance of the subject. However, this discussion has been already so severely commented upon in several of the newspapers of the Mississippi Valley, that it is quite unnecessary for me to add anything farther, except the hope that the Legislature which choose the successors of those Senators will have men of better education and higher intelligence offered to them as candidates for the position.

I regret to have been obliged to introduce this unpleasant subject, about which I feel a warmth and severity, unsuited to the position in which you have placed me. I must therefore close by begging you, in your respective localities, to continue aiding me in my endeavor to cause the Government authorities to give proper attention to this most important subject.

The minutes of the last meeting held in Detroit were read by the Secretary, C. V. Riley, and approved.

The consideration of reports of committees was postponed, owing to the non-arrival of some of the members.

Mr. Riley made some remarks upon the variation in the venation of the wings of *Anisopteryx pometaria* (or *A. autumnata*), and exhibited mounted preparations of wings of this insect differing greatly from the figures in Dr. Packard's new work.

Mr. Grote considered the variation of neuration in the Geometridæ as of no great value as a specific distinction.